

III. In The Claims

Please amend the affected claims, as set forth below, to strike pending claims 1-12 and insert new claims 13-21.

Claims 1-12 (Canceled). Please cancel pending claims 1-12.

Claim 13 (New). A hand-held device for gripping objects positioned beyond arm's length, comprising:

a pair of jaws movable relative to each other between an unclamped position and a fully clamped position;

a handle spaced apart from said pair of jaws by a central portion, said handle including a trigger connected to said pair of jaws by a pull member, whereby actuation of said trigger is operative to move said pair of jaws between the unclamped and fully clamped positions thereof, and a locking mechanism selectively operable to lock said pair of jaws in at least one intermediate position defined between said unclamped and fully clamped positions; and

wherein the pull member is sufficiently resilient so as to permit said pair of jaws to be temporarily urged away from each other towards the unclamped position thereof when the pair of jaws are locked in the at least one intermediate position.

Claim 14 (New). The hand-held device of claim 13, wherein the pull member comprises a substantially inelastic pull rod including along the length thereof a resilient portion.

Claim 15 (New). The hand-held device of claim 14, wherein the resilient portion comprises a spring.

Claim 16 (New). The hand-held device of claim 15, wherein the pull rod is monolithic, and the spring is defined integrally therewith.

Claim 17 (New). A hand-held device for gripping objects positioned beyond arm's length, comprising:

a first pair of jaws movable relative to each other between an unclamped position and a fully clamped position;

a handle spaced apart from said pair of jaws by a central portion, said handle including a trigger connected to said pair of jaws by a pull member, whereby actuation of said trigger is operative to selectively position said pair of jaws between the unclamped and fully clamped positions thereof; and

wherein each of the pair of jaws includes a gripping portion freely removably connected thereto.

Claim 18 (New). The hand-held device of claim 17, wherein each of the pair of jaws includes an end effector having a bore in which the gripping portion is freely removably seated.

Claim 19 (New). The hand-held device of claim 18, wherein each of the gripping portions and bores are provided with complimentary male and female

interlocking portions, whereby the gripping portions may each be securely freely removably seated in place within each of the bores.

Claim 20 (New). The hand-held device of claim 19, wherein each gripping portion comprises an upper part having opposite gripping and seating surfaces, and a stem part extending axially from the upper part, the stem part including at least one radially extending tab, and wherein further each of the bores is dimensioned to receive therein the stem part, including the tab, each bore opening adjacent an upper surface opposing the seating surface of the gripping portion upper part, and each bore further communicating with a radiused slot dimensioned to receive therein the tab of the stem part to thereby permit rotational movement of the gripping portion relative to the jaw.

Claim 21 (New). The hand-held device of claim 20, wherein the seating surface of each gripping portion includes at least one detent, and the upper surface of each of pair of jaws includes a complementary recess positioned at the limit of rotational movement of the gripping portion relative to the jaw.